TO THE

Chairman and Members

OF THE

Stowmarket Urban District Council.

10*th* JANUARY, 1906.

GENTLEMEN,

I have the honour of presenting to you my NINTH ANNUAL REPORT on the health of Stowmarket for the year ending 31st December, 1905.

VITAL STATISTICS.

I have based the following Statistics on the population at the last census, as at present I can obtain no evidence of any change one way or the other.

Birth Rate, 22·3 per 1000.

During the year there were 93 Births (41 boys and 52 girls), which gives a Birth Rate of 22·3 per 1000. This is a little better than last year, but is still below the average for the previous ten years. The Birth Rate for the East Stow District was 23·4 per 1000.

Death Rate, 11·7 per 1000.

The number of Deaths registered during the year was 48 (27 males and 21 females). One of the paupers who died in the Workhouse during the year belonged to Stowmarket, and this, added to the above, gives the corrected number of 49, and a Death Rate of 11·7 per 1000, compared with 14·4 last year, and an average of 15 per 1000 for the previous ten years. With regard to the Death Rate I am able to give a few further particulars this year which are of general interest, showing the steady fall of the Death Rate for the last 30 years. In calculating the following I have only taken the number of Deaths registered in the district, as until the last few years the Deaths occurring in the Workhouse were not entered to their proper districts. The average Death Rate for the ten years 1875 to 1884 was 17·0 per 1000; for the ten years 1885 to 1894 15·3 per 1000; and for the ten years 1895 to 1904 was 14·2 per 1000. Again take the same rate as given in the reports of the last six years. The average for the previous ten years in each case is as follows:—

1900	...	15·6 per 1000
1901	...	15·4 ,,
1902	...	15·5 ,,
1903	...	14·9 ,,
1904	...	14·5 ,,
1905	...	14·2 ,,

This rate for the East Stow District was 14·1 per 1000.

Infant Mortality, 107 per 1000 Births.

There were 10 Deaths registered of Infants under one year of age, equal to an Infant Mortality of 107 per 1000 Births. This is considerably under that of last year, which was 123 per 1000, and also compares very favourably with the average of the previous nine years, which was 129 per 1000 Births. Particulars of these Deaths are given in Table V. This rate for the East Stow District was 144 per 1000 Births.

Zymotic Diseases.

There was only 1 Death caused by the Zymotic Diseases, viz., a child, whose death was caused by Whooping Cough.

Other Deaths. Amongst the causes of other Deaths will be noted (see Table IV.):—3 due to Phthisis, compared with 5 last year; 1 due to Cancer, compared with 3 last year; 14 due to Diseases of the Respiratory Organs, compared with 10 last year; 2 were caused by Accident; 6 were due to Heart Disease; and 7 were returned as due to "old age."

INFECTIOUS DISEASES.

During the year only 8 notifications of Infectious Diseases were received, viz.:—Diphtheria 2, Erysipelas 1, Scarlet Fever 5—total 8. This is the smallest number received in any year since 1890, when the Notification Acts were put into force. It is also the first year that no case of Enteric Fever has been notified.

With regard to the cases of Diphtheria, in one case the drains were found to be very defective and in the other no insanitary condition was found. One of the cases of Scarlet Fever was imported from London; in association with two other cases (in one family) the house drains were defective. In regard to the rest of the cases, on examination no cause could be found and no insanitary conditions were reported.

GENERAL SANITARY REPORT.

Bake-houses. The Bake-houses were inspected officially twice during the year, and occasional surprise visits were made. They were found to be in a very satisfactory sanitary condition.

Slaughter-houses. The Slaughter-houses were also inspected twice during the year, and occasional surprise visits were made. In the case of one house the floor had to be re-constructed in cement, and one new Slaughter-house has been built under sanitary conditions and well away from any houses.

Cow Sheds and Dairies. The Cow Sheds and Dairies were inspected during the year and were found to be in a satisfactory condition.

Common Lodging Houses. The Common Lodging-houses were inspected during the year. They were found to be in a fairly satisfactory sanitary condition.

Factory Act. There are 52 Workshops now on the register, an increase of 6 over last year. 126 inspections were made during the year. Five defects were found, two of which have since been remedied.

Refuse Disposal. The Refuse from the houses is removed twice a week and carted to the outskirts of the town. Altogether 676 loads have been disposed of in this way, and also 171 loads of Night Soil during the year.

New Bye-Laws. The new Bye-Laws have now been agreed upon both by the Committee of the Council and the Local Government Board, and only await the necessary preliminaries to bring them into force in the district.

Sewerage and Drainage. During the year the Sewers in Station Road and Ipswich Road have been reconstructed.

The Main Intercepting Sewer was cleaned out for a length of 860 yards, 20 loads of silt being removed.

During the year the Drains to several houses in the town have had to be reconstructed on account of bad workmanship. One drain under a showroom was inspected owing to blockage, and was found to be made up with butt pipes and chimney pots. It has since been relaid properly.

The Drains of several houses in Regent Street and Bury Street, although notice was served on owners two years ago to do so, are still not connected on to the sewer.

Defective Drains were condemned in three houses in Ipswich Road, being all constructed with butt pipes. These have been reconstructed and laid on to the new sewer.

With regard to the Sewerage of the town, steady progress is being made. Since July, 1903, the sewers in Lime Tree Place (175 yards), Crowe Street (100 yards), Station Road (117 yards), Union Street (100 yards), Church Lane (57 yards), Maltings (15 yards), and Ipswich Road (600 yards), have all been taken up and properly relaid. Mostly they were constructed with butt pipes and chimney pots without joints, &c., and were half filled with silt.

During the same time 1100 yards of the Intercepting Sewer has been cleaned out; and 283 houses have been connected on to the sewers.

There remains to be re-sewered part of Bury Street (butt pipes), Ipswich Street (butt pipes), Violet Hill District and Finborough Road (butt pipes), Tavern Street (butt pipes), Bond Street (butt pipes), and part of Church Lane.

During the year 21 D and Bell Traps were condemned and reconstructed properly.

3 Open Cesspools were condemned and rectified.

3 cases of the House Sinks being directly connected with the sewer were reported and remedied.

11 cases of Rain-water Pipes directly connected with the sewers were condemned and disconnected.

104 P. Vaults were condemned, the houses being provided with w.c.'s connected with the sewer.

6 Open Cesspools in Church Lane directly connected with the sewer have been condemned, but have not, so far, been reconstructed.

House Accommodation.

House-to-house inspection was made by the Sanitary Inspector and myself in certain quarters of the town. With regard to the serious overcrowding in Abbot's Yard reported last year, three of the houses have either been pulled down or converted, and the other has been thoroughly cleaned and done up. Two cottages in a lane off Bury Road had no water supply and the P. Vaults were so badly constructed that they had to be condemned; since, a well has been sunk to supply the drinking water and earth closets have been provided. One cottage in Church Lane was condemned as unsafe and has since been pulled down.

The Night Soil from 11 houses in Bury Street has still to be removed through the houses; in some cases in Bury Street the vaults have not been emptied for five years.

Water Supply.

During the year I have analysed 118 samples of water from the shallow wells of Stowmarket. In February, 1905, the Council passed a resolution that all the wells in the town should be analysed, and in July I presented a special report after having examined all the wells except two or three acknowledged by the owners to be totally unfit for use, and one case in which the owner objected.

Of these 118 I found that 7 showed no signs of pollution at the time of examination; 8 were suspicious, *i.e.*, they showed signs of past pollution; and 103 showed signs of recent pollution and were therefore unfit for domestic use. I also pointed out in the report that as these wells varied chemically with the rainfall, it was unsafe to infer that even the 7 wells which showed no signs of pollution at the time, would always be safe for domestic use.

Following this report notices were served in each case on the owner, pointing out that the well water was unsafe for domestic purposes and asking him to provide a proper and safe supply. As a result, 40 out of 106 notices have been complied with and

133 cottages have thus been supplied from the Waterworks. These notices have not been pressed for the reason that the Council contemplates purchasing the Waterworks, and having served notice on all the owners of polluted wells, and having pointed out as publicly as possible the danger of drinking this water, the responsibility rests with those who continue to use it, contrary to the advice of the Council.

Table I. shows the estimated Population and Birth and Death Rates for the last 10 years.

Table II. refers to the Factory Act.

Table III. shows the cases of Infectious Diseases notified, and particulars as to the age of the persons affected.

Table IV. shows the causes of, and ages at, Death during the year.

Table V. give details *re* Infant Mortality during the year.

In conclusion, I have to acknowledge the great help I have received from the Sanitary Inspector and Surveyor, and to thank the Chairman and Members of the Council for the considerate manner in which they have always received my suggestions.

I have the honour to remain, Gentlemen,

Your obedient Servant,

CHAS. W. LOW, M.B., D.P.H., &c.,

Medical Officer of Health.

TABLE I.

Vital Statistics of Whole District during 1905 and previous Years.

Year.	Popul'tion estimated to Middle of each Year.	Births.		Total Deaths registered in the District.				Total Deaths in Public Institutions in the District.	Deaths of Non-residents registered in the District.	Deaths of Residents registered beyond the District.	Nett Deaths at all Ages belonging to the District.	
				Under 1 year of age.		At all ages.						
		No.	Rate.*	No.	Rate per 1000 Births registd.	No.	Rate.*				No.	Rate.*
1895	4274	109	25·5								59	14·0
1896	4256	107	25·1	10	93						58	14·0
1897	4238	109	27·7	12	110						64	15·1
1898	4221	98	23·2	17	171	71	16·8			6	77	18·2
1899	4202	103	24·5	13	126	56	12·8			4	60	14·2
1900	4185	104	24·8	16	153	70	16·7			1	71	16·9
1901	4162	114	27·3	20	178	66	15·8			3	69	16·4
1902	4162	92	24·5	9	97·8	51	12·2			3	54	12·9
1903	4162	72	17·2	7	97·2	52	12·4			6	58	13·9
1904	4162	89	21·2	11	123	56	13·4			4	60	14·4
Averages for years 1895-1904		99	23·9		129		14·2				63	15·0
1905	**4162**	**93**	**22·3**	**10**	**107**	**48**	**11·5**			**1**	**49**	**11·7**

* Rates calculated per 1,000 of estimated population.

Area of District in acres (exclusive of area covered by water) 2177

Total population of all ages 4162

Number of inhabited houses ... 962. Average number of persons per house ... 4·4

TABLE II.

Factories, Workshops, Laundries, Workplaces, and Homework.

1.—INSPECTION.

Premises.	Inspections.	Number of Written Notices.	Prosecutions.
Factories (including Factory Laundries) ...	15 ...	0 ...	0
Workshops (including Workshop Laundries) ...	90 ...	3 ...	0
Workplaces	20 ...	0 ...	0
Homeworkers' Premises	1 ...	0 ...	0
Total ...	**126** ...	**3** ...	**0**

2.—DEFECTS FOUND.

Particulars.	Number of Defects. Found.	Remedied.
Want of Cleanliness...	2 ...	2
Sanitary Accommodation—Unsuitable or Defective	1 ...	0
Failure as regards Lists of Outworkers	2 ...	0
Total ...	**5** ...	**2**

Total Number of Workshops on the Register... ... ... **52**

TABLE III.

Cases of Infectious Disease notified during the Year 1905.

Notifiable Disease.	Cases Notified in Whole District.							No. of Cases removed to Hospital from each Locality.
	At all Ages.	At Ages—Years.						
		Under 1	1 to 5	5 to 15	15 to 25	25 to 65	65 and upwards	
Diphtheria ...	2			2				
Erysipelas ...	1					1		
Scarlet Fever ...	5			3	2			
Totals ...	**8**			**5**	**2**	**1**		

TABLE IV.

Causes of, and Ages at, Death during the year 1905.

Cause of Death.	Deaths in whole District at subjoined Ages.						
	All Ages.	Under 1	1 and under 5	5 and under 15	15 and under 25	25 and under 65	65 and upwards.
Small-pox							
Measles							
Scarlet Fever							
Whooping Cough	1		1				
Enteritis	2	2					
Phthisis (Pulmonary Tuberculosis)	3			1	2		
Other Tubercular Diseases ...	1				1		
Cancer, malignant disease ...	1					1	
Bronchitis	4			1		1	2
Pneumonia	7	2				4	1
Pleurisy	3						3
Other Diseases of Respiratory Organs							
Alcoholism—Cirrhosis of Liver...							
Premature Birth	2	2					
Heart Diseases	6					2	4
Accidents	2			1		1	
Suicides							
Apoplexy	1						1
Old Age	7						7
All other causes	9	4	1	1	2		1
All causes	**49**	**10**	**2**	**4**	**5**	**9**	**19**

TABLE V.

Infantile Mortality during the Year 1905.

Deaths from stated Causes in Weeks and Months under One Year of Age.

Cause of Death.	Under 1 Week.	1-2 Weeks.	2-3 Weeks.	3-4 Weeks.	Total under 1 Month.	1-2 Months.	2-3 Months.	3-4 Months.	4-5 Months.	5-6 Months.	6-7 Months.	7-8 Months.	8-9 Months.	9-10 Months.	10-11 Months.	11-12 Months.	Total Deaths under One Year.
All Causes—Certified	2	1	1		4		2		2			1				1	10
Diarrhœal Diseases:—																	
Gastritis, Gastro-intestinal Catarrh			1				1										
Wasting Diseases:—																	
Premature Birth ...	2																
Atrophy, Debility, Marasmus									1								
Convulsions									1								
Pneumonia												1				1	
Other Causes		1					1										

Births in the year ... **93.** Deaths from all Causes at all Ages ... **49.**

Population ... ... **4162.**

STOWMARKET

Urban District Council.

ANNUAL REPORT

OF THE

MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH

FOR

1905.

J. NEWBY, PRINTER, STOWMARKET.